Remarks

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 15-17 are allowable and that claims 5-8, 11-12, 22-23 and 25-26 would be allowable if rewritten to include all limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Independent claims 1, 9, 18 and 24 have been amended to better point out Applicant's invention and to patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

A. Applicants' Invention

As amended, independent claims 1, 9, 18 and 24 are directed to a digital inclinometer that measures the angle of an adjustable portion of a wing of an aircraft between a first reference position and a second angularly adjusted position. A pair of accelerometers senses the gravitational vector of the earth and each provides an output signal. The accelerometers are referenced to the leading and trailing edges of a portion of the wing of the aircraft (Claims 1 and 18, and FIG. 1), or are attached to the adjustable surface of a portion of the wing (Claims 9 and 24, and FIG. 2).

A data processor receives the output signals from the pair of accelerometers to determine a first reference position of the adjustable surface of the wing, to determine a second adjusted position of the adjustable surface of the wing and to determine an angle between the first reference position and the second adjusted position. A display receives information from the data

processor and displays the angle of the adjustable surface of the wing relative to the reference position.

The rejected dependent claims include other structure and features. However, Applicant submits that the rejected dependent claims are allowable as placing additional limitations on independent claims 1, 9, 18 and 24. These dependent claims are therefore allowable as depending from allowable base claims.

B. Rejection of Claims 1-4, 9-10, 13-14, 18-21, 24 and 27-28

Claims 1-4, 9-10, 13-14, 18-21, 24 and 27-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,031,330 to Stuart. Stuart is concerned with the orientation of platforms that carry instrumentation and equipment in aircraft or spacecraft (Col. 1, lines 8-31). More particularly, Stuart seeks to harmonize such platforms by means of sets of inclinometers and with respect to three axes; roll, pitch and azimuth (Col. 1, line 59 through col. 2, line 27). He suggests that one platform 22 may be located proximate to a wing tip 10 of the aircraft to support flux valve gate compass instrumentation (Col. 2, lines 64-66).

However, there is no disclosure or teaching of Applicant's invention as defined in amended independent Claims 1, 9, 18 and 24. Stuart does not fairly teach or suggest measuring the angle of an adjustable portion of the wing of an aircraft between a

first reference position and a second adjusted position with inclinometers, as further defined in these independent claims.

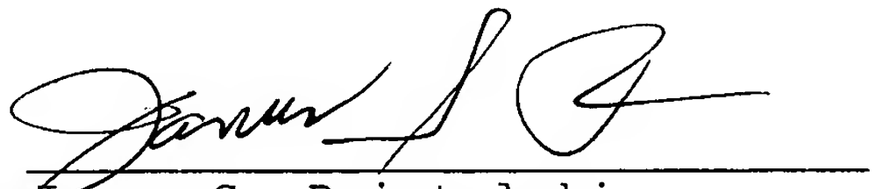
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art cited against claims 1-4, 9-10, 13-14, 18-21, 24 and 27-28 do not fairly teach or suggest Applicant's invention as defined in newly amended independent Claims 1, 9, 18 or 24.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of $110 for the fees associated with the Petition for Extension of Time. No other fees are believed to be due. However, if needed, please charge any additional fees to our deposit account number 50-1039.

For the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the amended claims patentably distinguish over the prior art and that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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